

In the specification:

Please cancel paragraph [0062] related to Fig. 5 from the specification.

[0062] In the exemplary embodiment according to FIG. 5, the combination of light beams is achieved on the basis of phase as the characteristic property of the light. Beam combination is accomplished, in this context, in accordance with the time reversal of the beam division at a beam splitter plate 23. The apparatus shown in FIG. 5 comprises a total of four laser light sources. Laser light source 24 acts in this context as the master; laser light sources 25, 26, and 27 act in this context as slaves. The phase relationship necessary for combining the light beams from laser light sources 24, 25, 26, 27 is produced by the fact that the light from laser light source 24 is first divided, with beam splitter plates 28, into several partial beams 29. Partial beams 29 are coupled into laser light sources 25, 26, 27, and thus synchronize the stimulated emission of the three laser light sources 25, 26, 27. Laser light 30 emitted from laser light sources 25, 26, 27, which now has a fixed phase relationship, is merged at beam splitter plates 23 into a combined light beam 14 in accordance with the time reversal of a beam division. To prevent feedback of light into laser light source 24, the latter is located after an optical diode 31 that is embodied as a Faraday rotator. Laser light sources 24 through 27 have a coherence length of 5 m, so that the coherence length of the laser light source is in any event longer than the entire beam combining apparatus shown in FIG. 5.